

Message Text

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22

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8174

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BURSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

USMISSION NATO

USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T A L MADRID 9115

E.O. 11652: GDS

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TAGS: PINT, PFOR, SP, IX, XF, XG

SUBJECT: FIRST CONFERENCE OF MEDITERRANEAN SOCIALISTS

1. DURING NOV 26-28, VARIOUS SOCIALIST NONMEMBERS OF THE SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL (SI) HELD THE "FIRST CONFERENCE OF MEDITERRANEAN SOCIALISTS" IN BARCELONA, OBVIOUSLY THEIR ANSWER TO THE GENEVA MEETING OF THE SI OVER THE SAME WEEKEND. SOCIALIST PARTIES FROM MOST RIPARIAN STATES--FRANCE, ITALY, GREECE, YUGOSLAVIA, SYRIA, LIBYA, TUNISA, ALGERIA, MOROCCO, MALTA AND SPAIN--PLUS IRAQ, NORWAY, DENMARK AND PORTUGAL REPORTEDLY WERE REPRESENTED, AS WAS THE PLO. NOT SURPRISINGLY, THE ISRAELI SOCIALISTS WERE NOT INVITED.

2. THE CONFERENCE WAS HOSTED BY TWO SMALL SPANISH SOCIALIST PARTIES WITH A MARKED THIRD WORLD/NEUTRALIST ORIENTATION, TIerno GALVAN'S POPULAR SOCIALIST PARTY (PSP) AND THE FEDERATION OF SOCIALIST PARTIES (FPS). SPAIN'S MAJOR SOCIALIST PARTY, THE PSOE, WHICH IS A MEMBER OF THE SI AND IS MORE EUROPE ORIENTED, WAS NOT INVITED.

3. SPANISH MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE CONFERENCE WAS SPARSE AND SUPERFICIAL AND WHAT LITTLE THERE WAS CONCENTRATED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY ON THE STATEMENTS OF THE SPANISH PARTICIPANTS. PSP PRESIDENT TIerno GALVAN AND SEC GEN RAUL MORODO REPORTEDLY CHIDED THE SI FOR ITS "REFORMIST, SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC" APPROACH AND AFFIRMED THE "RADICAL SOCIALIST" VOCATION OF THE BARCELONA PARTICIPANTS. THEY ALSO DENOUNCED THE "ATLANTICISM" OF THE SI, REAFFIRMING THEIR COMMITMENT TO A "MEDITERRANEAN" ORIENTATION FOR SPAIN, AND CALLED FOR AN "AUTONOMOUS" MEDITERRANEAN, FREE OF "EUROPEAN AND US PRESSURES." MORODO SPECIFICALLY OPPOSED SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NOAT AS CONTRARY TO MADRID'S INTERESTS AND DETRIMENTAL TO THE "GREAT POSSIBILITIES" OPEN TO SPAIN IN THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA.

4. THE PARTICIPANTS APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN UNABLE TO BRIDGE THE OBVIOUS DIFFERENCES REPRESENTED BY THEIR VARIEGATED APPROACHES TO "SOCIALISM," PARTICULARLY AS BETWEEN THE EUROPEANS AND ARABS, BUT APPARENTLY AMONG THE ARAB REPRESENTATIVES AS WELL. ONE ALGERIAN REPRESENTATIVE, FOR INSTANCE, WAS REPORTED TO HAVE CRITICIZED THE "PRECIPITOUS" AND "IMPROVISED" NATURE OF THE GET-TOGETHER. ALTHOUGH NOTHING OF ANY REAL SUBSTANCE APPEARS

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TO HAVE BEEN ACCOMPLISHED, THE PARTICIPANTS DID FORM A PERMANENT SECRETARIAT, WHICH WILL MEET PERIODICALLY IN LIBYA, AND AGREED TO MEET AGAIN NEXT YEAR TO MALTA. THEY ALSO ISSUED A FOUR-POINT POST-CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE WHICH RATHER PREDICTABLY CALLS FOR:

--WITHDRAWAL OF ALL "FOREIGN" MILITARY FORCES FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN;

--SUPPORT FOR THE "ARMED STRUGGLE OF THE PLO";

--CONDEMNATION OF COLONIALISM AND ZIONISM AND SUPPORT FOR
"PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENTS;" AND
--DEVELOPMENT OF POLITICAL, CULTURAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION
AMONG MEDITERRANEAN SOCIALIST FORCES.

5. COMMENT: FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE SPANISH PSP AND FPS,
WHICH ARE HYPERSENSITIVE ABOUT THE SUPPORT WHICH THE PSOE
ENJOYS FROM THE SI AND GERMAN SPD, THE BARCELONA MEETING WAS
LARGELY A VEHICLE FOR SIPHONING OFF PUBLICITY WHICH OTHERWISE
WOULD HAVE GONE EXCLUSIVELY TO PSOE PARTICIPATION IN THE GENEVA
MEETING. THE PROMISE OF CONTINUED MEDITERRANEAN SOCIALIST
CONFERENCES ALSO PROVIDES THEM WITH A NEEDED INTERNATIONAL
PROJECTION AND AN ADDITIONAL FORUM FOR REAFFIRMING THEIR
SOCIALIST CREDENTIALS AND ATTACKING THE PSOE'S. HOWEVER, THE
EMPHASIS THESE PARTIES PLACE ON THEIR NORTH AFRICAN/THIRD
WORLD CONNECTION--WHICH APPEARS TO BE AT LEAST PARTLY THE
RESULT OF THEIR INABILITY OF SECURE EUROPEAN SUPPORT--IS
CERTAIN TO BE MUCH LESS IN TUNE WITH THEIR POTENTIAL
CONSTITUENCIES THAN IT IS WITH THEIR NARROW, MORE RADICAL
BASES. AND THE SUSPICION THAT LIBYAN (LISBON 8116--NOTAL) AND
OTHER ARAB MONEY ("ECONOMIST" FOREIGN REPORT MENTIONS IRAQ AND
ALGERIA) IS FUNDING THEIR ACTIVITIES RAISES POTENTIALLY
EMBARRASSING QUESTIONS WHICH MAY HAVE TO BE CONFRONTED IN
THEIR RUNNING BATTLE WITH THE PSOE OVER ALLEGED FOREIGN
"MANIPULATION."STABLER

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